

Message Text

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63

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 AID-05 PC-01 /071 W

----- 030448

R 021621Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1431

INFO AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE FREETOWN 1491

3.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV SL

SUBJECT: CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

1. SL PARLIAMENT JULY 2 ENACTED BILL AMENDING CONSTITUTION TO PROVIDE FOR SEPARATION OF POSITION SOF VICE PRESIDENT AND PRIME MINISTER, WHICH HERETOFORE COMBINED IN ONE PERSON. BILL, DESCRIBED BY PRESENT VP/PRIMIN S.I. KOROMA AS "NON-CONTROVERSIAL," DOES NOT SPECIFY FUNCTIONS OR DUTIES OF EITHER OFFICE. DIVISION OF FUNCTIONS LIKELY TO DEPENDENT ON DESIRES PRESIDENT STEVENS.

2. NO OFFICIAL INDICATION YET AVAILABLE WHO STEVENS WILL NAME TO WHICH OFFICE. TWO MOST LIKELY CANDIDATES ARE KOROMA AND MINFIN C.A. KAMARA-TAYLOR, PRESENTLY SECOND AND THIRD RANKING MEMBERS OF GOSL. INTERNAL EVIDENCE OF BILL, HOWEVER, SUGGESTS KOROMA WILL BE VP (SEE PARA 4 BELOW).

3. NOT YET EVIDENT WHAT EFFECT DIVISION OF KOROMA'S POSITION WILL HAVE ON SUCCESSION QUESTION, ALTHOUGH IT CAN BE ANTICIPATED THAT ACTIVE LOCAL RUMOR

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CIRCUIT WILL WORK OVERTIME ON THIS ONE. EMBASSY SEES

NOTHING IN STEP, HOWEVER, AT LEAST AS YET, WHICH SHOULD BE INTERPRETED AS DEMOTION FOR KOROMA, AND ACTUAL WORKING OUT OF NEW STRUCTURE COULD IN FACT REINFORCE HIS STATUS AS HEIR-APPARENT. PURPOSE OF DIVISION SEEMS PRINCIPALLY TO BE, AS ADVERTISED IN DEBATE, THAT PRESENT VP/PRIMIN JOB SIMPLY TOO BIG FOR ONE MAN AND SHOULD BE SPLIT FOR BETTER GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY.

4. SECONDARY PURPOSE OF AMENDMENT BILL IS TO PROVIDE FOR ANY OTHER MEMBER OF PREROGATIVE OF MERCY COMMITTEE (ART 63) TO CHAR COMMITTEE IN ABSENCE OF VICE PRESIDENT, WHO HAS BEEN AND CONTINUES BE CHAIRMAN. ACCORDING ON MEMBER OF CABINET, THIS INCLUDED TO PERMIT VICE PRESIDENT TO STEP ASIDE IN CASES WHERE HE MIGHT HAVE PERSONAL (EMBASSY ASSUMES ALSO POLITICAL) REASON TO DO SO. THIS APPEARS SUGGEST THAT KOROMA IN LINE FOR VP SLOT SINCE HE BELIEVED ANXIOUS NOT TO HAVE TO MAKE RECOMMENDATION TO PRESIDENT FOR OR AGAINST CLEMENCY FOR CONVICTED CONSPIRATORS IN TREASON TRIAL, ALMOST ALL OF WHOM, LIKE KOROMA, ARE TEMNES. FUTURE OF CONSPIRATORS UNDERSTOOD BE VERY SENSITIVE ISSUE WITHIN TEMNE COMMUNITY.

5. AIRGRAM FOLLOWS.
SAMUELS

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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